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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Robert E. Haines

Serial No.: 09/976,715

Filed: October 11, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2143

Examiner: England, David

Docket No. 10007587-1

For: **Hardcopy Output Engine Discovery Method and Apparatus**

REVISED APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

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Sir:

This Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed October 6, 2005, responding to the Final Office Action mailed June 17, 2005.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required to consider this Appeal Brief. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no known related appeals or interferences that will affect or be affected by a decision in this Appeal.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-34 stand finally rejected. No claims have been allowed. The final rejections of claims 1-34 are appealed.

IV. Status of Amendments

This application was originally filed on October 11, 2001, with twenty-seven (27) claims. In a Response filed January 27, 2005, Applicant amended claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13-15, 18, 20-22, 26, and 27, and added new claims 28-35. In a Response filed August 17, 2005, Applicant corrected mis-numbered claims "34" and "35" to read "33" and "34", respectively.

All of the above-identified amendments have been entered and no other amendments have been made to any of claims 1-34. The claims in the attached Claims Appendix (see below) reflect the present state of those claims.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The claimed inventions are summarized below with reference numerals and references to the written description ("specification") and drawings. The subject matter described in the following appears in the original disclosure at least where indicated, and may further appear in other places within the original disclosure.

Independent claim 1 describes a method of device discovery. The method comprises downloading a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser. Applicant's specification, page 8, lines 12-13; Figure 2, step S12. In some embodiments, such downloading entails downloading the plug in to a user computer via a web browser of the user computer.

The method of claim 1 further comprises activating the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in. Applicant's specification, page 8, lines 14-22; Figure 2, step S13. In some embodiments, the plug in inventories peripheral devices by polling and identifying the peripheral devices and their network addresses.

The method of claim 1 further comprises transmitting data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in. Applicant's specification, page 7, lines 27-31; page 8, lines 23-25; Figure 2, step S14. In some embodiments, the data

describing the peripheral devices comprises their network addresses, and the data is transmitted to a vendor website for storage.

Independent claim 8 describes an article of manufacture. The article of manufacture comprises a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein that is configured to cause a processor to download a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser. Applicant's specification, page 8, lines 12-13; Figure 2, step S12. In some embodiments, such downloading entails downloading the plug in to a user computer via a web browser of the user computer.

The article of manufacture of claim 8 further comprises a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein that is configured to cause a processor to activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in. Applicant's specification, page 8, lines 14-22; Figure 2, step S13. In some embodiments, the plug in inventories peripheral devices by polling and identifying the peripheral devices and their network addresses.

The article of manufacture of claim 8 further comprises a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein that is configured to cause a processor to transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in. Applicant's specification, page 7, lines 27-31; page 8, lines 23-25; Figure 2, step S14. In some embodiments, the data describing the peripheral devices comprises their network addresses, and the data is transmitted to a vendor website for storage.

Independent claim 15 describes a computer implemented control system for a hard copy output engine. The system comprises memory configured to store a software

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module. Applicant's specification, page 3, lines 30-32; Figure 1, item 13. In some embodiments the hard copy output engine comprises one of a printer, copier, facsimile machine, or a multifunction device.

The system of claim 15 further comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to download a device discovery plug in via a network using a web browser. Applicant's specification, page 8, lines 12-13; Figure 2, step S12. In some embodiments, such downloading entails downloading the plug in to a user computer via a web browser of the user computer.

The system of claim 15 further comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in. Applicant's specification, page 8, lines 14-22; Figure 2, step S13. In some embodiments, the plug in inventories peripheral devices by polling and identifying the peripheral devices and their network addresses.

The system of claim 15 further comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in. Applicant's specification, page 7, lines 27-31; page 8, lines 23-25; Figure 2, step S14. In some embodiments, the data describing the peripheral devices comprises their network addresses, and the data is transmitted to a vendor website for storage.

Independent claim 21 describes a computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to download a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser.

Applicant's specification, page 8, lines 12-13; Figure 2, step S12. In some embodiments, such downloading entails downloading the plug in to a user computer via a web browser of the user computer.

The signal of claim 21 further comprises a computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in. Applicant's specification, page 8, lines 14-22; Figure 2, step S13. In some embodiments, the plug in inventories peripheral devices by polling and identifying the peripheral devices and their network addresses.

The signal of claim 21 further comprises a computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in. Applicant's specification, page 7, lines 27-31; page 8, lines 23-25; Figure 2, step S14. In some embodiments, the data describing the peripheral devices comprises their network addresses, and the data is transmitted to a vendor website for storage.

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The following grounds of rejection are to be reviewed on appeal:

1.   Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 10-11, 14-15, 17, 20-21, 23-24, 27-28, and 30-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel (U.S. Pat. No. 6,779,004) in view of Butt, et al. ("Butt," U.S. Pat. No. 6,754,829).

2.   Claims 2, 9, 18, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel and Butt, and further in view of Pang, et al. ("Pang," U.S. Pat. No. 6,804,718).

3.   Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 16, 19, 25, 26, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel and Butt, and further in view of Sharpe, Jr., et al. ("Sharpe," U.S. Pat. No. 5,960,214).

4.   Claim 29 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel and Butt, and further in view of Garland, et al. ("Garland," U.S. Pat. No. 6,674,764).

5.   Claims 33 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel, Butt, and Sharpe, and further in view of Baker, et al. ("Baker," U.S. Pat. No. 6,405,204).

VII. **Arguments**

The Appellant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and respectfully requests that the Board of Patent Appeals overturn the final rejections of those claims at least for the reasons discussed below.

A.   Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 10-11, 14-15, 17, 20-21, 23-24, 27-28, and 30-31

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 10-11, 14-15, 17, 20-21, 23-24, 27-28, and 30-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel (U.S. Pat. No. 6,779,004) in view of Butt, et al. ("Butt," U.S. Pat. No. 6,754,829). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As has been acknowledged by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has the burden under section 103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or generally available knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art that would lead that individual to the claimed invention. *See In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) section 2143 discusses the requirements of a *prima facie* case for obviousness. That section provides as follows:

> To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teaching. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure.

In the present case, the prior art does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, and there is no suggestion or motivation in the prior art to modify the references to include

those limitations. Applicant discusses the applied references and Applicant's claims in the following.

1. The Zintel Disclosure

Zintel discloses a system for auto-configuring peripherals for peer networking connectivity. Zintel, Patent Title. More particularly, Zintel discloses a system with which a peripheral device that is not otherwise configured for peer-to-peer communication can be used in a peer-to-peer manner. See Zintel, Abstract. As is described by Zintel:

> In accordance with a technology described herein, peripheral devices connected with a host via host/peripheral connectivity are exposed in a device control model as peer devices having peer networking connectivity. *A peer networking-to-host/peripheral connectivity adapter, which may be implemented as a set of software modules running on a host, operates to convert between a device control protocol with peer networking connectivity and a host/peripheral connectivity protocol (or protocols) for a set of host-connected peripheral devices. The adapter, in effect, operates virtually as a set of controlled devices in the device control protocol, which respond to communication in the device control protocol from other peer devices that are networked with the host.* The adapter converts the device control protocol communications from the peer devices into the peripheral devices' respective host/peripheral protocol for controlling the peripheral devices. The adapter also converts communications in the respective host-peripheral protocol from the peripheral devices into the device control protocol with peer networking connectivity. Accordingly, the peer networking-to-host/peripheral connectivity adapter exposes the operational functionality of the peripheral devices to use from other peer networking devices via the device control

protocol. Alternatively, the adapter also may operate for peripheral devices that provide a user interface as a user control point that converts communications from the devices in the respective host/peripheral protocol into the device control protocol with peer networking connectivity to control other peer networking connectivity devices.

[Zintel, column 2, lines 29-57, emphasis added]

Zintel's "connectivity adapter" is provided to the host by installing the adapter on the host. The installation process is described by Zintel as follows:

According to a further aspect of the invention, *the adapter is automatically installed and configured for a peripheral device by host operating software along with device-specific driver software upon connecting or "plugging" the peripheral device into the host*, for example, as part of a "plug-and-play" peripheral device installation sequence. At the time of connecting the peripheral device into the host or during a boot-up sequence of the host operating software, the host operating software detects that a new peripheral device has been connected; and automatically selects or prompts the user to select and then installs an appropriate device driver for the new peripheral device. The host operating software also automatically installs a peer networking-to-host/peripheral adapter, which exposes the peripheral to control from peer networking devices that are networked to the host and optionally permits control of peer networking devices from the peripheral.

[Zintel, column 3, lines 9-25, emphasis added]

Significantly, Zintel says **nothing** about discovering devices on a network.

2. The Butt Disclosure

Butt discloses a certificate-based authentication system. Butt, Patent Title. Like Zintel, Butt says nothing about device discovery.

3. Applicant's Claims

(a) Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 28, and 30-31

Applicant's independent claim 1 provides as follows (emphasis added):

> 1. A method of device discovery comprising:
>
> downloading *a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser*;
>
> *activating the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network* with the device discovery plug in; and
>
> transmitting data *describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in*.

The Examiner primarily relies upon the teachings of Zintel in accounting for the various limitations of Applicant's claim 1. In particular, the Examiner relies exclusively on column 2, lines 29-56 of the Zintel reference in addressing each of the three limitations contained in claim 1. As was stated during prosecution, however, Zintel does *not* teach any of those limitations in column 2, or elsewhere in the Zintel disclosure for that matter.

(i) Downloading a *Device Discovery* Plug In

As a first matter, Zintel does not teach "downloading a device discovery plug in". As was noted above, Zintel's system has nothing to do with "discovering" devices. It logically follows then that Zintel does not teach downloading any "device discovery plug

in". Although Zintel teaches downloading an "adapter" in column 2, lines 29-56, that adapter is *not* described as being used to "discover" devices. This fact is clear when column 2, lines 29-56, which is reproduced in whole above, is reviewed.

Applicant further notes that Zintel does not teach downloading such a plug in "via a network". Although the Butt disclosure is relied upon for this aspect of Applicant's claim, Applicant notes that Butt fails to contribute anything to the rejection beyond downloading software from the Internet. Applicant concedes that it is known to download software from the Internet. However, it is *not* known to, as recited in Applicant's claim 1, download a device discovery plug in via a network. Applicant submits that the claim as a whole must be considered when evaluating the limitations of Applicant's claims. *Hartness International, Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d 1100, 2 USPQ2d 1826 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (In determining obviousness, "the inquiry is not whether each element existed in the prior art, but whether the prior art made obvious the invention as a whole for which patentability is claimed"). Furthermore, Applicant notes that Zintel *teaches away* from downloading software from a network. As is noted above, Zintel does not contemplate Internet download for the "adapter." Instead, Zintel teaches downloading the adapter when a peripheral device first connects to a host in a plug-n-play arrangement. Finally, regarding the Examiner's comment that direct connection between a host and a peripheral device can be "interpreted as a small network," Applicant disagrees. The term "network" is a well-established term in the art and actually describes a network arrangement, not a direct-connect arrangement.

(ii) Activating Plug In to *Discover* Peripheral Devices

Contrary to that alleged in the Office Action, Zintel does not teach activating a device discovery plug in "to discover peripheral devices on the network", as is also required by claim 1. Again, Zintel's system has nothing to do with device discovery. Therefore Zintel's system does not "activate" a device discovery plug in. Furthermore, Zintel's system does not "discover" peripheral devices. Again, column 2, lines 29-56 do not teach such discovery. Instead, that portion of Zintel's disclosure only speaks of an "adapter" that is used to facilitate communications between devices.

Furthermore, Applicant notes that, although Zintel teaches installing an "adapter" on a host that enables the host to communicate with a peripheral device upon the peripheral device being connected to the host, that adapter does not "discover" any peripheral devices. In particular, since providing the adapter to the host identifies the existence of the peripheral device to the host, there is no need for the *further step* of "discovering" that peripheral device. Moreover, the adapter is not used to "discover" other peripheral devices. The reason for this is because Zintel's adapter is simply not a discovery mechanism, as is clear from Zintel's own disclosure.

(iii) Transmitting Data Describing the *Discovered* Devices

Because Zintel does not discuss discovery of devices or a discovery plug in, it logically follows that Zintel's system does not transmit data describing peripheral devices "discovered by the device discovery plug in".

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(iv)   Dependent Claim Limitations

The claims that depend from claim 1 present further limitations that are not taught or suggested by Zintel or Butt.   For example, claim 30 recites transmitting data "describing peripheral devices" to a "vendor website".   Neither reference teaches this limitation.

(b)   Claims 8-27

Applicant's other independent claims are also allowable over the Zintel and Butt references.   For instance, regarding independent claim 8, Zintel does not teach computer readable code that is configured to cause a processor to "download a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser", "activate the device discovery plug in to is cover peripheral devices on the network", or "transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in", at least for reasons described above. Claim 8, and claims 9-14 which depend therefrom, are allowable for at least those reasons.

Regarding independent claim 15, Zintel does not teach a system comprising processing circuitry configured to employ a software module to "download a device discovery plug in via a network using a web browser", "activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network", or "transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in", at least for reasons described above.   Claim 15, and claims 16-20 which depend therefrom, are allowable for at least those reasons.

Finally, regarding independent claim 21, Zintel does not teach a computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to "download a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser", "activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network", or "transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in", at least for reasons described above. Claim 21, and claims 22-27 which depend therefrom, are allowable for at least those reasons.

B.   Claims 2, 9, 18, and 22

Claims 2, 9, 18, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel and Butt, and further in view of Pang, et al. ("Pang," U.S. Pat. No. 6,804,718). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is identified above, Zintel and Butt fail to teach explicit limitations of Applicant's claims. In that Pang does not remedy this deficiency of the Zintel and Butt references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 9, 18, and 22 are allowable over the Zintel/Butt/Pang combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 8, 15, and 21 are allowable over Zintel/Butt.

C.   Claims 5-6, 12-13, 16, 19, 25-26, and 32

Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 16, 19, 25, 26, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel and Butt, and further in view of Sharpe, Jr., et al. ("Sharpe," U.S. Pat. No. 5,960,214). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is identified above, Zintel and Butt fail to teach explicit limitations of Applicant's claims. In that Sharpe does not remedy this deficiency of the Zintel and Butt references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 16, 19, 25, 26, and 32 are allowable over the Zintel/Butt/Sharpe combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 8, 15, and 21 are allowable over Zintel/Butt.

As a further point, Applicant asserts that, contrary to that argued in the Office Action, Sharpe does *not* teach "activating the device discovery plug in to collect data chosen from a group consisting of: model and serial number information and included options from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices" in column 15, lines 10-30. That portion of the Sharpe disclosure provides as follows:

The PhysicalTag, DeviceID, and DeviceTag objects relate to or are associated with the "PhysicalTag," "DeviceID," and "DeviceTag" collections of the Root object, respectively, and are used to uniquely define a particular device connected to or associated with the FMS system 10. A device ID typically includes a triplet of information comprising the name of the device manufacturer, the model number of the device, and the serial number of the device. Device tags and physical tags usually refer to a location of the device in a plant or a process such as the process 12. The value of a physical tag and/or a device tag can be, for example, an alphanumeric code associated with a specific physical location in the plant or any other description of a physical location. For HART devices, the physical tag is considered the same as the device tag whereas, for Fieldbus devices, the physical tag can have a different value than the device tag. The OLE objects in FIGS. 3 and 4 immediately below a quoted collection name, such as the PhysicalTag object, the DeviceTag object, and the DeviceID object, are also referred to as collections because they are related to constructs which a DDL considers or defines as collections.

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[Sharpe, column 15, lines 10-30]

As can be appreciated from the above excerpt, although Sharpe mentions various IDs and tags, Sharpe clearly does not disclose activating a "device discovery plug in" or collecting data "from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices".

D.   Claim 29

Claim 29 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel and Butt, and further in view of Garland, et al. ("Garland," U.S. Pat. No. 6,674,764). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is identified above, Zintel and Butt fail to teach explicit limitations of Applicant's claims. In that Garland does not remedy this deficiency of the Zintel and Butt references, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 is allowable over the Zintel/Butt/Garland combination for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable over Zintel/Butt.

As a further matter, Applicant asserts that although the portion of the Garland reference identified by the Examiner generally mentions "polling," Garland simply does not teach or suggest activating a "device discovery plug in" to "poll peripheral devices on the network to identify their addresses". Moreover, there is clearly no motivation or suggestion to combine the teachings of Garland with those of Zintel. Again, Zintel is not concerned with device discovery. A person having ordinary skill in the art would therefore not think to add "polling" from the Garland reference into the Zintel system. Given the lack of a suggestion or motivation contained in the prior art for the proffered combination, it appears clear that the only suggestion or motivation comes from

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Applicant's own disclosure. As is well established in the law, such hindsight to the Applicant's own disclosure is *per se* improper. *See Crown Operations International, Ltd. v. Solutia, Inc.*, 289 F.3d 1367, 62 USPQ2d 1917 (Fed. Cir. 2002) (a determination of obviousness cannot be based on a hindsight combination of components selectively culled from the prior art to fit the parameters of the invention).

E.   Claims 33 and 34

Claims 33 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel, Butt, and Sharpe, and further in view of Baker, et al. ("Baker," U.S. Pat. No. 6,405,204). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is identified above, Zintel, Butt, and Sharpe fail to teach explicit limitations of Applicant's claims. In that Baker does not remedy this deficiency of the Zintel, Butt, and Sharpe references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 33 and 34 are allowable over the Zintel/Butt/Sharpe/Baker combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 6 are allowable over Zintel/Butt/Sharpe.

As a further matter, Applicant asserts that Baker does not teach "identifying a purchase authorizer for each group" or "identifying a maintainer for each group" as are provided in claims 33 and 34, respectively. Instead, column 4, lines 14-49 of the Sharpe reference, which were identified by the Examiner, describe a classification methodology for organizing companies into sectors for the purpose of issuing alerts, which are presumably used for investing purposes. Not only does this teaching fail to address the limitations of claim 33 and 34, this teaching is not properly combinable with the Zintel reference given that it is directed to a totally different system and application.

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VII. Conclusion

In summary, it is Applicant's position that Applicant's claims are patentable over the applied prior art references and that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. Appellant therefore respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals overturn the Examiner's rejection and allow Applicant's pending claims.
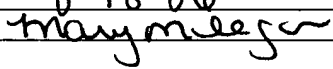
Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

David R. Risley

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Claims Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)

The following are the claims that are involved in this Appeal.

1.   A method of device discovery comprising:

downloading a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser;

activating the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in; and

transmitting data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein downloading comprises downloading the device discovery plug in across a firewall from a web site associated with a vendor.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein activating the device discovery plug in comprises activating the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein activating the device discovery plug in comprises activating the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines selected from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein activating the device discovery plug in comprises activating the device discovery plug in to collect data chosen from a group consisting of: model and serial number information and included options from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising organizing collected data into suitable groups.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein downloading and activating includes starting a web browser, directing the web browser to a web site associated with a vendor, downloading the device discovery plug in from the vendor web site with the browser and activating the device discovery plug in with the web browser.

8.   An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein that is configured to cause a processor to:

download a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser;

activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in; and

transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in.

9.   The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to download comprises computer readable code

configured to cause the processor to download the device discovery plug in across a firewall from a web site associated with a vendor.

10.   The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines.

11.   The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines selected from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

12.   The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data chosen from a group consisting of: model and serial number information and included options from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices.

13.   The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code is further configured to cause the processor to organize collected data into suitable groups.

14. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to download and activate comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to:

start a web browser;

direct the web browser to a web site associated with a vendor;

download the device discovery plug in from the vendor web site with the browser; and

activate the device discovery plug in with the web browser.

15. A computer implemented control system for a hard copy output engine, the system comprising:

memory configured to store a software module; and

processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:

download a device discovery plug in via a network using a web browser;

activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in; and

transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in.

16. The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module activate comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module activate the device

discovery plug in to collect data chosen from a group consisting of: model and serial number information and included options from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices.

17. The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to activate includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines selected from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

18. The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to download includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to download the device discovery plug in across a firewall from a web site associated with a vendor.

19. The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the peripheral device is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

20. The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to download and activate comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:

start a web browser;

direct the web browser to a web site associated with a vendor;

download the device discovery plug in from the vendor web site with the browser; and

activate the device discovery plug in with the web browser.

21.   A computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to:

download a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser;

activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in; and

transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in.

22.   The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to download comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to download the device discovery plug in across a firewall from a web site associated with a vendor.

23.   The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to activate comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the

processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines.

24. The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to activate comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines selected from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

25. The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to activate comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data chosen from a group consisting of: model and serial number information and included options from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices.

26. The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal is further configured to cause the processor to organize collected data into suitable groups.

27. The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the

processor to download and activate comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to:

start a web browser;

direct the web browser to a web site associated with a vendor;

download the device discovery plug in from the vendor web site with the browser; and

activate the device discovery plug in with the web browser.

28.   The method of claim 1, wherein downloading a device discovery plug in comprises downloading a device discovery plug in onto a host computer on the network.

29.   The method of claim 1, wherein activating the device discovery plug in comprises activating the device discovery plug in to poll peripheral devices on the network to identify their addresses.

30.   The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting data describing peripheral devices comprises transmitting the data to a vendor website.

31.   The method of claim 30, further comprising storing the data describing the peripheral devices in association with the vendor website.

32. The method of claim 6, wherein organizing collected data into suitable groups comprises organizing the collected data according to an internal business structure associated with the network.

33. The method of claim 6, further comprising identifying a purchase authorizer for each group.

34. The method of claim 6, further comprising identifying a maintainer for each group.

Evidence Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

Related Proceedings Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.